



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 16

**Meeting Date:** October 25, 2007  
**Meeting Location:** Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana

**Council Members Present:** Regional Manager Virginia Combs  
Larry Marchino  
Susan Blackburn  
Steve Cunningham  
David Straw  
Julie Weeks  
Judge Timothy Crowley  
Judge Brett Niemeier  
Suzanne Draper  
Judge David Kelley

**Council Members Absent:** Chris Hoehn

**Others In Attendance:** Judge Joseph Verkamp  
Judith Harper  
Lark Buckman  
Jara Dillingham (The Villages)  
Mike Singleton (Ireland & Luzio)  
Cynthia Smith (Youth Service Bureau)  
Ann Hecht (Children & Family Services)  
Bill Curtis (Hillcrest Youth Home)  
Mike Jones (DOULOS Family Services)  
T. J. Brink (SWIRYV)

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 5:00 p.m. (6:00 p.m. Indianapolis time) by Regional Manager Virginia Combs.

1. Mrs. Combs welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves. The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes of the July 26th meeting had been emailed to all Council members prior to the meeting. On a motion by Susan Blackburn, seconded by Steve Cunningham, the minutes of the July 26, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

2. Community Partners Update – Mike Singleton from the Community Partners for Child Safety Program through Ireland Home Based Services presented some information which included the Closed Case Summary for September, 2007, the Monthly Summary from September, 2007, and the Financial Report for the Community Partners for Child Safety Program beginning in April, 2006.

In his comments Mike noted that on the first page of the Closed Case Summary, it is important to note the number of goals that are being addressed. Also, on the budget sheets, Mike pointed out that the shaded area is the anticipated cost. Page three of the Financial Report shows the project expenses and Mike noted that additional funds were rolled over. Page 4 is the Breakdown of the Startup Expenses and Page 5 notes the June expenses that have been billed.

Lark Buckman asked if the waiting list was gone and according to Mike, the waiting list has been dissolved. He noted that IHBS were averaging 22 referrals per week.

Mike also mentioned that Dr. Ireland attended a Kids First meeting in Indianapolis. Mrs. Combs discussed the relationship of the Kids First Trust Fund with the Council members, noting that the Kids First Trust helps to fund the Community Partners for Child Safety Program.

3. Child Welfare Services Funding Update – Other discussion concerned the rollover of money from the IV-B Program. It was noted that the rollover of money is leftover Title IV-B funding that was not used during Fiscal Year 2006. Mrs. Combs noted that the county did not expend its funding and so it was sent back to the Central Office and redistributed. A chart showing the allocation each county received from this redistributed money was presented also. Motion was made by Steve Cunningham and seconded by Larry Marchino that the region-wide \$33,000 IV-B rollover money be allocated to the Community Partners for Child Safety program. Judge Niemeier then asked the question if we expend this rollover money for Community Partners, will we have to use rollover money each year in order to fund the program. It was expressed that hopefully this would not be the case. Larry Marchino reported that we can no longer provide voluntary services so Central Office is interested in continuing these Community Partner services. The motion was called for vote, and the motion carried.
4. Child Advocacy Center – Mrs. Combs reported that the Child Advocacy Center known as Holly's House is going to be available for initially Vanderburgh County, but eventually other counties will be able to use the facility. She noted that this is a place that children can go to be interviewed using a multi-

disciplinary approach. The building is still under construction and completion is projected by January, 2008.

5. Regional Service Council Members' Agency Update – Member agencies of the Regional Service Council provided updates on their services. Suzanne Draper, CASA Director, initiated the discussion by talking about CHINS and support groups that the Vanderburgh County CASA is conducting now. Bill Curtis from Hillcrest-Washington Home talked about some independent living activities that they are planning for males in the future. Mike Jones from DOULOS Family Services had no report. Cynthia Smith from Youth Services Bureau discussed homeless youth. T.J. Brink from Southwestern Indiana Regional Youth Village reported that they are doing a feasibility study concerning community service work of youth in an attempt to help them understand their obligation to their community.
6. CHINS/Delinquents – Mrs. Combs asked the Judges present to discuss CHINS and Delinquents and how to differentiate between them. Judge Kelley started the discussion by noting that delinquent acts committed by a juvenile are acts which if committed by an adult would be a crime. He noted some of the factors involved in making that determination and noted there needs to be more communication between the Prosecutor's Office and the Department of Child Services. He further noted that in delinquency cases we do not look at the home life, but only the behavior of the child, while in CHINS cases we do look at the home life as it affects the behavior of the child. CHINS cases are focused more on the parents and the family.

Judge Niemeier agreed with Judge Kelley in that in the CHINS cases we focus more on the parents and the family and in delinquency cases the focus is on the child only. He noted that in delinquency cases the Probation Department does not focus at all on the parents. If a referral to Community Partners for help is made in a delinquent case, Judge Niemeier could not force them to go. Judge Kelley did ask Mike Singleton if they accept a court ordered referral. Mike Singleton responded that they don't object to a court order, but it is still a voluntary program and they have no way to enforce the court order.

Judge Timothy Crowley stated he felt there wasn't a lot of difference between CHINS and delinquents. He felt the common denominator between the two was poor parenting. He did note that we should have a different way of dealing with them. He stated he feels the DCS is well staffed now, better so than most Probation Offices and Prosecutor's Offices, so he felt perhaps DCS ought to be more involved in some of the delinquency cases that are basically CHINS cases.

Judge Verkamp related that he agreed with the other Judges present and felt that this is very much a learning process, and will continue to be, as to how we can best serve the youth and their families. Judge Crowley reported that the December 14th Summit for Children sponsored by the Juvenile Judges Association would be presented with Director Payne being the featured speaker.

- 7 Miscellaneous – Mrs. Combs noted that the Nominating Committee will be developing a slate of voting members. The voting members on the Regional Services Council must consist of three county welfare directors, three judges, one CASA representative, one family case manager, one supervisor, and one foster care representative. Mrs. Combs noted that if you want to serve as a voting member you should contact one of the directors.

Lark Buckman reported on the Child Safety Conference scheduled for October 30th. He outlined the program and the speakers participating and encouraged Regional Services Council members to attend.

Gini gave an update on Practice Reform. She noted particularly that all staff in Region 16 have attended the Teaming and Engaging Training. The training consisted of techniques for engagement and teaming of families to improve their circumstances. Julie Weeks, Family Case Manager 2 representative, noted that she is a peer coach and has observed in Gibson County with the new process.

Gini also discussed the letter received from Judge Payne concerning our Family Services Review. She noted that we are looking at ICWIS reports and what kind of job we are doing overall in serving our families and children. We are especially looking at permanency, well-being, and safety for children and she noted other expectations from Director Payne's letter.

Future Agenda Items: Mike Doulos asked about the IV-B Funding and Mrs. Combs explained about the funding cycle and how and when that would take place.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** January 31, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at Haub's Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana.

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 7:00 p.m. (8:00 p.m. Indianapolis time).